

Quiet zone approved by Federal Railroad Administration after advocacy by Halvorson

Fighting to mitigate the effects of increased rail traffic through the south suburbs that has caused increased noise and traffic for local residents, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) announced today that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has agreed to establish a railroad quiet zone through Frankfort and Mokena, which would prohibit trains from using horns except for in cases of emergency. R

"For the thousands who live and work by the tracks in Frankfort and Mokena, this is incredible news that will lead to a better standard of living for all of Frankfort and Mokena's residents and residents throughout the area," said Halvorson. "Since the first day I sworn into office I have heard from my constituents that action needed to be taken to establish a quiet zone that would allow constituents to be free of the hassle of constant train horns. I am proud to have worked with leaders in our community like Mayor Holland and Mayor Werner to bring this quiet zone to Frankfort and Mokena, and we will continue to stand up for our constituents as we see increased rail traffic through our neighborhoods."

The FRA requires locomotives to sound their horns at public highway-rail grade crossings, but communities that meet specific safety criteria can establish quiet zones inside of which trains need not use their horns except for in case of emergencies. Frankfort and Mokena have, and are continuing to make improvements to each of their six crossings within the

quiet
zone
area to comply with FRA requirements.

“This is a big win for our residents who have to endure the noise of increased train traffic on a nightly basis. We thank Congresswoman Halvorson’s for her support on this issue. We will continue to protect our community’s interests and ensure that our resident’s voices are heard,” said Mayor Holland.

Working closely with local community leaders and the FRA, Halvorson sent a letter of support for the quiet zones to the FRA in December, 2009, expressing that, “the quiet zone would go a long way in terms of safety and noise mitigation.”

“The approval of this quiet zone is a major first step towards improving the quality of life for our residents, and it would not have been possible without the leadership of Congresswoman Halvorson and so many in our community who have worked together to make this a reality,” said Mayor Joe Werner, Village of Mokena.